

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). 1. A microalloyed steel ~~easy to separate~~ separable by fracture splitting at low temperatures, which comprises from 0.15 to 0.35 wt% carbon, from 0.5 to 2.0 wt% silicon, from 0.5 to 1.5 wt% manganese, from 0.03 to 0.15 wt% phosphorus, from 0.01 to 0.15 wt% sulfur, from 0.01 to 0.5 wt% copper, from 0.01 to 0.5 wt% nickel, from 0.01 to 1.0 wt% chromium, from 0.001 to 0.01 wt% soluble aluminium, from 0.005 to 0.035 wt% nitrogen, from 0.0001 to 0.01 wt% calcium, and from 0.001 to 0.01 wt% oxygen, the remainder comprising iron and inevitable impurities, and which satisfies the following relationships 1 and 2:

Relationship 1,

$$0.6 \leq C_{eq} \leq 0.85,$$

wherein $C_{eq} = C + 0.07xSi + 0.16xMn + 0.61xP + 0.19xCu + 0.17xNi + 0.2xCr;$

Relationship 2,

$$0 \leq T_{Tr} \leq 1.5,$$

wherein $T_{Tr} = (C + 0.8xSi + 5xP) - 0.5x(Mn + Cr + Cu + Ni);$

wherein the microalloyed steel lacks vanadium.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The microalloyed steel ~~easy to separate~~ separable by fracture splitting at low temperatures according to claim 1, which contains one or both of up to 0.02 wt% titanium and up to 0.02 wt% zirconium in place of part of the iron as the remainder.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The microalloyed steel ~~easy to separate~~ separable by fracture splitting at low temperatures according to claim 1 or 2, which contains one or both of up to 0.3 wt% lead and up to 0.3 wt% bismuth in place of part of the iron as the remainder.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). A fitting member produced through separation by fracture splitting at a low temperature, which comprises from 0.15 to 0.35 wt% carbon, from 0.5 to 2.0 wt% silicon, from 0.5 to 1.5 wt% manganese, from 0.03 to 0.15 wt% phosphorus, from 0.01 to 0.15 wt% sulfur, from 0.01 to 0.5 wt% copper, from 0.01 to 0.5 wt% nickel, from 0.01 to 1.0 wt% chromium, from 0.001 to 0.01 wt% soluble aluminium, from 0.005 to 0.035 wt% nitrogen, from 0.001 to 0.01 wt% calcium, and from 0.001 to 0.01 wt% oxygen, the remainder comprising iron and inevitable impurities, and which satisfies the following relationships 1 and 2:

Relationship 1,

$$0.6 \leq C_{eq} \leq 0.85,$$

wherein $C_{eq} = C + 0.07xSi + 0.16xMn + 0.61xP + 0.19xCu + 0.17xNi + 0.2xCr;$

Relationship 2,

$$0 \leq T_{Tr} \leq 1.5,$$

wherein $T_{Tr} = (C - 0.8xSi + 5xP) - 0.5x(Mn + Cr + Cu + Ni);$

wherein the microalloyed steel lacks vanadium.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented). The fitting member produced through separation by fracture splitting at a low temperature according to claim 4, which contains one or both if of up to 0.02 wt% titanium and up to 0.02 wt% zirconium in place of part of the iron as the remainder.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented). The fitting member produced by separation by fracture splitting at a low temperature according to claim 4 or claim 5, which contains one or both of up to 0.03 wt% lead and up to 0.3 wt% bismuth in place of part of the iron as the remainder.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The fitting member produced through separation by fracture splitting at a low temperature according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 6~~claim 4 or claim 5, which is a connecting rod for an engine.